

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 SNM-05 AID-05 /083 W
-----021978 190352Z /13
R 180702Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5795
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2988

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, UNGA, BM
SUBJECT: SEC VISIT 33 UNGA: REQUEST FOR MEETING BETWEEN BURMA'S
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECRETARY VANCE

REF:(A) USUN 01385, (B) STATE 184758, (C) RANGOON 2662

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY AMERICAN AFFAIRS ACTING DIRECTOR U TIN TUN
CONFIRMS REQUEST REPORTED REF A. HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTER
BRIG. GEN. MYINT MAUNG TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD NOTHING SPECIFIC
IN MIND TO RAISE WITH THE SECRETARY. SINCE THE UPCOMING UNGA
WOULD BE HIS FIRST VISIT TO THE US AS FOREIGN MINISTER (HE
WA APPOINTED LAST MARCH), THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID
THAT HE WANTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO CALL
ON SECRETARY VANCE, AS HE UNDERSTOOD THE SECRETARY USUALLY
RECEIVED FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THAT TIME.

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2. EMBASSY BELIEVES A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY WOULD
BENEFIT THE U.S. POSITION HERE AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT
A MEETING BE SET UP IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. WHILE US INTERESTS IN
BURMA, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NARCOTICS, ARE NOT OF GREAT
IMPORTANCE AS COMPARED TO A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES, AS
THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE WE HAVE DETECTED SOME IMPROVEMENT IN
U.S.-BURMA RELATIONS OF LATE AND NATURALLY WISH TO ENCOURAGE
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THIS TREND. THE BURMESE INDICATED NOT LONG AGO THAT THEY
WOULD WELCOME A RESUMPTION OF U.S. BILATERAL ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE, WHICH WAS UNILATERALLY TERMINATED BY THE PRESENT
GOVERNMENT IN THE MID-1960'S. THE MATTER IS CURRENTLY UNDER
STUDY IN WASHINGTON, WITH A DECISION EXPECTED MOMENTARILY.
BURMA'S RENEWED DESIRE FOR U.S. ECONOMIC AID FOLLOWS THE GROWTH
OF COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS IN

NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION AND EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND EXCHANGES. BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN THE DEEP FREEZE SINCE THE PRESENT REGIME TOOK OVER IN 1962.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS NO ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS TO OFFER INTO POSSIBLE MOTIVES OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN SEEKING THIS MEETING OR WHAT MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE HE MIGHT RAISE IF ANY, BUT IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT HISTORY OF U.S.-BURMA RELATIONS WE REITERATE OUR BELIEF THAT IT IS A GOOD OMEN AND SHOULD BE PURSUED. IT IS NOT CHARACTERISTIC OF THE BURMESE TO TAKE SUCH AN INITIATIVE, AND ONCE HAVING MADE THE REQUEST, THEY CERTAINLY WOULD BE OFFENDED IF IT WERE NOT GRANTED.

4. IF SUCH A MEETING IS HELD, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS SECRETARY CONSIDER RAISING FOLLOWING POINTS WITH HIS BURMESE COUNTERPART:

A. CONGRATULATE FOREIGN MINISTER ON HIS APPOINTMENT LAST MARCH;

B. EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR BURMESE COOPERATION IN ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS AND HOPE FOR EVEN CLOSER COLLABORATION IN FUTURE, EMPHASIZING STRONG U.S. INTEREST IN SUBJECT;

C. BELIEVE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE INTERESTED IN OUR VIEWS RE SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PRC. (BRIG. MYINT MAUNG WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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AMBASSADOR IN PEKING PRIOR TO BECOMING FOREIGN MINISTER.)

D. DEPENDING ON STATUS OF U.S. BILATERAL AID PROGRAM, WE BELIEVE THIS COULD BE WORTHWHILE TO MENTION.

5. IF THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION OR MORE DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS AT THIS TIME, PLEASE ADVISE. CORRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RANGOO02988
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: GS DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780339-0459
Format: TEL
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780848/aaaaboap.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 705de360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 1385, 78 STATE 184758, 78 RANGOON 2662
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1694071
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEC VISIT 33 UNGA: REQUEST FOR MEETING BETWEEN BURMA'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECRETARY VANCE
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, BM, US, UNGA, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (MYINT MAUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/705de360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014